

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 TRSE-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 AID-05
IGA-02 OMB-01 /084 W
-----221256Z 038326 /43

R 221158Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1010
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 1638

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JO
SUBJECT: REACTION IN JORDAN TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT
STATEMENTS

REF: AMMAN 1585

1. REACTIONS ARE EMERGING WITHIN JORDANIAN PALESTINIAN
COMMUNITY TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S CLINTON REMARKS WHICH
SUPPLEMENT ATTITUDES OF MANY EAST BANKERS REPORTED PARA 4
REFTEL. LOCAL PALESTINIANS SAY THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT
CHOICE OF WORDS "REFUGEES" AND "HOMELAND" (INSTEAD OF
"STATE"). THEY WORRY THAT THOSE TERMS IMPLY PRESIDENT'S
SUPPORT FOR REINCORPORATION OF WEST BANK INTO HASHEMITE
KINGDOM OR, WORSE, THAT PALESTINIAN REFUGEES ARE TO
CONSIDER ARAB STATES WHERE THEY HAVE BEEN LIVING FOR UP
TO ALMOST THREE DECADES AS THEIR HOMELAND. THESE VIEWS,
LOCAL PALESTINIANS SAY, ARE STRENGTHENED BY WHAT THEY
INTERPRET AS PRESIDENT'S PREFERENCE FOR ARAB STATES
TO RESOLVE AMONG THEMSELVES PALESTINIAN QUESTION
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IN A WAY CONDUCIVE TO A SETTLEMENT BEFORE THEY
COME TO GENEVA TO DISCUSS ISSUE WITH ISRAELIS.

2. AS WITH EAST BANKER'S INITIAL IMPRESSION OF
PRESIDENT'S STATEMENTS, LOCAL PALESTINIANS SEEM TO
BE JUMPING TO CONSLUSIONS (ALTHOUGH DIFFERENT ONES)
ON BASIS OF AMBIGUITY OVER TERM "HOMELAND" AND ITS

LOCATION. THE PALESTINIANS WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED
SUBJECT--ACADEMICS AND PROFESSIONALS--REALIZE THEY
ARE GIVING WORST-CASE INTERPRETATION TO AMBIGUITIES
WHOSE NECESSITY IN PRESENT STAGE OF PEACE PROCESS THEY
CONCEDE, BUT THEY HAVE CLEAR AND STRONG DISPOSITION
TO SUSPECT THE WORST AFTER THESE MANY YEARS. IN THAT
CONNECTION, THEY ARE SUSPICIOUS OF HIGHLY FAVORABLE
JORDANIAN MEDIA TREATMENT OF PRESIDENT'S REMARKS
(REFTEL) WHICH THEY CONSIDER GOJ OR EVEN U.S. INSPIRED.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT ABOVE VIEWS
OF OUR JORDANIAN PALESTINIAN CONTACTS REPRESENT
ONLY A PORTION OF THE SPECTRUM OF VIEWS IN JORDAN ON
PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AND THAT ABOVE VIEWS ARE ONLY
PRELIMINARY REACTIONS. EMBASSY WILL BE REPORTING
REACTION OF GOJ AND OF EAST BANK JORDANIANS TO
PRESIDENT'S RECENT STATEMENTS IN COMING DAYS.
PICKERING

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